THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The service was replaced by Kerala-Mangala Express and the existing facilities between Delhi and Kerala are by and large adequate.

Declaration of coconut as an 'Oilseed'

438. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare coconut as an oil seed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and what are the criteria of declaring any crop as oil seed?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is not considered necessary to declare coconut as oil seed because being a plantation crop, distinct from annual crops of other oilseeds coconut requires specialised handling for which Coconut Development Board has been set up. Besides, only a small part of this crop is being used as edible oil.

Any annual field crop whose primary product is an oil, is considered as an oil seed crop.

Himsagar Express

439. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to shorten the running time and route distance of Himsagar Express from Jammu Tawi to Kanyakumari by running it on the initial route; and

(b) whether the frequency of this train will be increased?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

SC/ST persons engaged in Agriculture and yet to get rid of indebtedness from the traditional money lender

440. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey recently to assess the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes who are engaged in agricultural work and are yet to get to rid of indebtedness from the traditional money-lender;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the burden of loans on these persons?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various States and Union Territories have enacted debt relief legislations to reduce debt burden by liquidation of loans pertaining to non-institutional sources of credit. Further, the aim of the Government is to make institutional credit easily available to all farmers including those belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes at concessional rates of interest.

441. *[Cancelled]*

Allotment of flats under HUDCO

442. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state by when Government propose to allot flats to all those who had registered with DDA in 1979 under the HUDCO Housing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): The remaining registrants are expected to be allotted flats by March, 1994.